GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002
OUTSTANDING DUES OF DD/AIR
AKHILESH YADAV;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding dues of DD/AIR pending against differentpersons, parties and firms as on October 31, 2002, persons/parties/firms- wise, year-wise, amount-wise;

(b) the reasons for keeping the amount outstanding by Programme Producers/Companies and the efforts made by the Government to recover the outstanding amount alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) whether above defaulters have formed any union;

(d) if so, the objective thereof and the impact on the recovery of the outstanding amount;

(e) whether the Government have written off the outstanding dues in some cases; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 52 FOR ANSWER ON 21.11.2002.

(a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the outstanding dues against major defaulting agencies in respect of Doordarshan , as on 31st October 2002, is Rs.164.82 crores, details of which are given in Annexure I.In respect of AIR, information regarding outstanding dues against defaulting agencies is available up to 15.5..2002, which stands at Rs. 6.69 crores. The details are given in Annexure II.

Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan suspends/withdrawsaccreditation status of companies, if they do not clear their outstanding dues. For recovery of the dues, the following steps are taken: -

i) Monthly monitoring is done and regular reminders are sent asking agencies to clear their outstanding dues.

ii) No fresh programmes/extension of programmes is given to defaulting agencies / producers unless they agree to give advance payment and commit to abide by an agreed payment plan.

iii) If the defaulting agencies do not adhere to the payment plan, then the programmes are taken off the air and their accreditation status is cancelled/withdrawn.

iv) On cancellation / withdrawal of accreditation status, bank guarantees of agencies are en-cashed.

v) To secure Doordarshan`s revenue and to cover the credit period, the bank guarantee amounts for running serials running on normal telecast fee has been increased to four times the telecast fee. In the case of high value, minimum guarantee programmes this is equivalent to fee for two episodes

vi) Legal proceedings have also been launched to recover the outstanding in some cases.

AIR accepts commercial spots/sponsorships/sponsored programmesthrough accredited agencies. The accreditation status of the defaulting agencies is suspended temporarily and bookings accepted on advance payment only, till dues are cleared. If any such agency fails to clear the outstanding dues, its Bank Guarantee is encashed. In cases of dispute in payment, the matter is referred for Arbitration and in some cases; civil suits are also filed to recover the dues.

(c): Prasar Bharati is not aware of any such development.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.